

1 November 1963

State Department review completed

SUBJECT : Coup Time Sequence (All Times indicated are local Saigon Time, 1 November)

25X1

- 1345 [REDACTED] coup is in progress.
Marines observed pouring into Saigon from direction of Bien Hoa.
- 1430 Vietnam Special Forces compound captured along with Col. Tung. Other installations captured: police compound, Ministry of Defense, telecommunications center, and navy yard. Gia Long Palace surrounded.
- 1440 Col. Hien (Air Force Commander) captured. 35 armed cars beginning to move toward Palace.
- 1450 Coup leaders, Gen. "Bg" Minh and Gen. Don, attempting contact Palace by telephone to present surrender ultimatum. Other prisoners under control of coup: Police Commissioner Tu, Airborne Commander Col. Vien, Marine Commander Col. Khang, Civil Guard Commander Lam.
- 1530 Heavy fighting including armor in the vicinity of the Palace. Coup leaders monitor broadcast from Palace to I and II Corps claiming coup attempted but all insurgents arrested.
- 1550 ^{HEARD} Heavy firing at Embassy. Coup leaders at JGS are following generals "Big" and "Little" Minh, Khiem, Kim, Le, and Chieu. Coup leaders also claim support of Gen. Tri (I Corps Commander) and Gen. Khanh (II Corps Commander), as well as capture of Bien Hoa and Mytho. ~~FRANCE UNDER ATTACK BY AIR FORCE 20 15~~
- 1630 Generals claim support of 5th, 7th, 9th, 21st, 22nd, and 23rd Divisions. Ambassador Lodge receives call from President Diem at Palace asking for U.S. attitude.
- 1700 Telephone conversation between coup leaders and those they captured and Ngo Dinh Nhu at the Palace. Nhu given five minutes to capitulate.
- 1710 Conversation with Diem along lines above. Diem hangs up. Gen. Minh gives order to bomb Palace. Radio announcement President Diem has resigned.

- 1830 Presidential Guard reported to have capitulated.
- 1900 Coup leaders state they expect Palace to fall shortly. State they hope for early recognition of coup by U.S. Generals plan to come to Embassy and ask Tich Tri Quang to join government.
- Ten truckloads jubilant young men and women observed acclaiming revolution. 150 other students liberated by coup forces and taken to JGS where holding coup demonstration.
- 1915 Gen. "Big" Minh gives President Diem last chance to surrender. Shortly after 1900 hours, four loud explosions heard in vicinity of Palace.